AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims as set forth below.

1. (Currently amended) A file managing apparatus for displaying a catalog of files indicating thumbnail images and extracted text on a display unit, based on an index file recorded on a recording medium and managing files recorded on ~~a~~ the recording medium by resorting to ~~an~~ the index file recorded on said recording medium, in which an entry for temporary management is provided so that a file to be deleted is stored temporarily thereunder;

wherein said index file is made up of a text entry file formed of entries of extracted text, an image entry file formed of entries of thumbnail images, and a property entry file formed of entries of properties for managing the entries of thumbnail image and the entries of extracted text, ~~formed by a series of entries constituted by blocks of extract information about said files, said extract information~~ the thumbnail images being arranged to correspond with said files;

wherein the property entry file further includes hierarchy management information which ~~is set for each of said entries and which primarily points to another entry is provided to express~~ expresses a hierarchical structure of said files recorded on said recording medium; ~~and~~

~~wherein an entry for temporary management is provided under which a file to be deleted is stored temporarily;~~

~~wherein, in said index file, said extract information is grouped by attribute into a thumbnail image group which is a group of thumbnail images, a text group which is a group of titles in text, and a property group which is a group of properties for managing said thumbnail image group and said text group;~~

wherein in said property group, entries concerning said files are furnished with entry-related management information ~~pointing to the corresponding entries in said~~ which indicates relation between the entries of thumbnail images ~~group~~ and ~~said~~ the entries of extracted text ~~group~~ based on the files from which the thumbnail images and the extracted text are extracted, and with file-related management information ~~pointing to the corresponding~~ which shows relation between the files and the entries of thumbnail images and extracted text which correspond to the files;

wherein, when deletion of ~~one of~~ said file is instructed using the catalog of said files indicating the thumbnail images and the extracted text, displayed based on the index file, said file managing apparatus changes, with keeping said entry-related management information and said file-related management information which is set for said file to be deleted unchanged, the hierarchy management information, which is set for the entry of said file to be deleted, in such a manner that said hierarchy management information points to said entry for temporary management; ~~and~~

wherein ~~said file managing apparatus includes a~~ the display unit ~~to display~~ displays ~~said extract information~~ the thumbnail image and the extracted text about said entry furnished with said hierarchy management information which has been changed so as to point to said entry for temporary management, ~~so that said file managing apparatus accepts processing of the file associated with said entry about which said extract information is displayed,~~ and

wherein said file managing apparatus changes said hierarchy management information so as to point to a predetermined entry, when an instruction is given to restore said file associated with the entry furnished with said hierarchy management information which has been changed to point to said entry for temporary management.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) The file managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, given an instruction to delete the file associated with the entry furnished with said hierarchy management information which has been changed to point to said entry for temporary management, said file managing apparatus deletes the corresponding entry from said index file and the corresponding file from said recording medium.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

3

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The file managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said file managing apparatus, when changing said hierarchy management information in such a manner as to point to said entry for temporary management, records a date of the change to said index file.

9. (Original) The file managing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said file managing apparatus checks said date of said change against the current time of day and, depending on an outcome of the check, deletes the corresponding entry from said index file and the corresponding file from said recording medium.

10. (Previously presented) The file managing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said file managing apparatus sets an entry for a virtual folder with date of the change in such a manner as to point to said entry for temporary management and changes said hierarchy management information in such a manner as to point to said entry for the virtual folder.

11. (Currently amended) A file managing method for displaying a catalog of files indicating thumbnail images and extracted text on a display unit, based on an index file recorded on a recording medium and managing files recorded on a the recording medium by resorting to an the index file recorded on said recording medium, in which an entry for temporary management is provided so that a file to be deleted is stored temporarily thereunder;

wherein said index file is made up of a text entry file formed of entries of extracted text, an image entry file formed of entries of thumbnail images, and a property entry file formed of entries of properties for managing the entries of thumbnail image and the entries of extracted text, formed by a series of entries constituted by blocks of extract information about said files, said extract information the thumbnail images being arranged to correspond with said files;

wherein <u>the property entry file further includes</u> hierarchy management information which ~~is set for each of said entries and which primarily points to another entry is provided to express~~ <u>expresses</u> a hierarchical structure of said files recorded on said recording medium; and

~~wherein an entry for temporary management is provided under which a file to be deleted is stored temporarily;~~

~~wherein, in said index file, said extract information is grouped by attribute into a thumbnail image group which is a group of thumbnail images, a text group which is a group of titles in text, and a property group which is a group of properties for managing said thumbnail image group and said text group;~~

wherein in said property group, entries concerning said files are furnished with entry-related management information ~~pointing to the corresponding entries in said~~ <u>which indicates relation between the entries of</u> thumbnail image ~~group~~ and ~~said~~ <u>the entries of extracted</u> text ~~group~~ <u>based on the files from which the thumbnail images and the extracted text are extracted</u>, and with file-related management information ~~pointing to~~ <u>which indicates relation between</u> the ~~corresponding~~ files <u>and the entries of thumbnail images and extracted text corresponding to the files</u>;

· said file managing method comprising the step of changing the hierarchy management information which is set for the entry of said file to be deleted, in such a manner that said hierarchy management information points to said entry for temporary management, with keeping said entry-related management information and said file-related management information <u>which is set for the entry of said file to be deleted,</u> unchanged, when deletion of said file is instructed <u>using the catalog of said files indicating the thumbnail images and the extracted text, displayed on the index file,</u>

<u>displaying thumbnail image and the extracted text about said entry furnished with said hierarchy management information which has been changed so as to point to said entry for temporary management, and</u>

<u>changing said hierarchy management information so as to point to a predetermined entry, given an instruction to restore the file associated with the entry furnished with said hierarchy management information which has been changed to point to said entry for temporary management.</u>

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) The file managing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the corresponding file is deleted from said recording medium according to a lapse of a predetermined time from date of the change.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18 (New) The file managing method according to claim 11, wherein, given an instruction to delete the file associated with the entry furnished with said hierarchy management information which has been changed to point to said entry for temporary management, the corresponding entry from said index file and the corresponding file from said recording medium are deleted.

19. (New) The file managing method according to claim 11, wherein when changing said hierarchy management information in such a manner as to point to said entry for temporary management, a date of the change to said index file is recorded.

20. (New) The file managing method according to claim 19, wherein said date of said change against the current time of day is checked and, depending on an outcome of the check, deletes the corresponding entry from said index file and the corresponding file from said recording medium.

21. (New) The file managing method according to claim 19, wherein an entry for a virtual folder with date of the change is set in such a manner as to point to said entry for temporary management and changes said hierarchy management information in such a manner as to point to said entry for the virtual folder.

22. (New) The file managing method according to claim 20, wherein the corresponding file is deleted from said recording medium according to a lapse of a predetermined time from date of the change.